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The Impact of Caregiver and Community Education On Influenza Vaccination Acceptance

Austin Mueller
gt0364@wayne.edu

Sandra Bronni MD
Hurley Medical Center

Jenny LaChance
Hurley Medical Center

Ruba Allabwani MD
Central Michigan University

Bianca Yaldo MD
St Mary Mercy Hospital

See next page for additional authors

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Authors

Austin Mueller, Sandra Bronni MD, Jenny LaChance, Ruba Allabwani MD, Bianca Yaldo MD, and Abigail Howell

Introduction: Pediatric populations are particularly vulnerable to influenza, and rely on parental approval of the pediatric influenza vaccine (PIV). We conducted a survey to better understand our community's perspective on the PIV.

Methods: An urban pediatric clinic's records were gathered for the 2017-2019 flu seasons (i.e., pre-survey period). Surveys were distributed during the 2019-2020 flu season to assess vaccination status and their reasoning for acceptance or rejection of the PIV for their child(ren). Children vaccination rates were divided into 3 groups: 6 months-3 years, 3-5 years, and 5-18 years.

Results: During the 2017-2018 flu season, the overall vaccination rate (n=1791) was 34.1%. For the 2018-2019 flu season, the overall vaccination rate (n=1795) was 41.7%. During the 2019-2020 flu season, the overall vaccination rate (n=1620) increased to 45.3%. This was a statistically significant increase from 2018-2019 flu season ($p=0.035$).

The most common reason to vaccinate was, "I do not want my child to get the flu/the shot reduces the likelihood of child getting the flu" (52.2% in <5 years age group, 56.5% in >5 years age group). The most common reason to not vaccinate was, "I do not want the flu shot for my child" (35.7% in <5 years age group, 38.6% in >5 years age group).

Discussion: Understanding community perceptions will allow for efficacious educational materials and allow healthcare providers to tailor their strategies for the sake of preventive medicine and community health.